

Self, I mailed out the issue your missing the
day after I
mailed this one
so watch for it.

ARENA REPORT

Volume 1, Number 14

Ron

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Sunday, March 19, 1989
Hartford Civic Center
Hartford, CT

Welcome to another round of "Arena Report". Things are very hectic as I write this. I usually type this intro as well as some reports a few days before printing but I was in Orlando the past few days checking things out. So this is all being typed tonight (Sunday) and will go out tomorrow. As far as Orlando goes, well, the weather was great, the houses are really nice and real cheap. We'll probably make the move somewhere in July. Dusty sends his best.

Well, the NWA has finally announced the New Haven show for 4/8 which is a Saturday night. It's turning out to be a mini get together as we have 11 people going. They've only announced three matches so far: Flair vs. Luger, Steamboat vs. Rotunda, and Roadies vs. Sullivan & Spivey. Steiner, Sting, and Reed were also announced by Joe Pedicino. They should have went in with Flair vs. Steamboat since it's their first shot in but this line up might do okay. This issue will include the usual as well as a review of the recent Saturday Night's Main Event. The next issue will be the NWA from New Haven which will also include an interesting report on wrestling in Tijuana from Evan Ginzburg.

"Arena Report" is published approx twice a month and the cost is 50¢ an issue. The number at the top right corner (sorry, left corner. Been a long weekend.) indicates how many issues you have remaining. All renewals, match results, and letters may be sent to Ron Lemieux, 205 Vernon Ave. #187, Vernon, CT 06066. I attended the show today with my two future bro in-laws; Semi-Mark I and Semi-Mark II. (Not Super Destroyers.) Let's go to the home of the whale(rs).

Tag Team Match

Paul Roma & Jim Powers beat The Conquistadors in 12:57 when Roma hit Estrada with a dropkick from the top rope. *

Non-Title Match

Rockin Robin defeated Judy Martin in 7:57. Martin missed a running charge in the corner and Robin cradled her for the pin. $\frac{1}{2}$ *
Not to be sexist or anything but I'm starting to hate these girl matches.

3rd Match

Bad News Brown beat Ron Garvin with a ghetto blaster in 6:53. Well, Vince is successfully burying a former NWA champ. Rugged Ron should head for higher ground or give Pat a call. Match was a dud.

Tag Team Match

The Rockers beat The Brain Busters in 12:56. Good match as usual. Arn and Michaels make that out of the ring clothesline look so

tough. End saw Busters throw Jannetty into the ropes but he ducked the rebound and Sean tripped Arn while Marty rolled up Tully. ***

Return Match

Terry Taylor beat Brooklyn Brawler in 9:38. Bad match but at least Lombardi is doing the job. Taylor's red streak was very light tonight. Maybe he was on the downward cycle of his dying schedule. Bobby Heenan was in Steve's corner and made a quick get away after the match. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

6th Match

Curt Hennig and Hercules went to a twenty minute draw in 18:50. (Hey Harry, do you keep time like that?) Simply horrible, so simply a dud.

Six Man Tag Team Match

Bushwhackers & Hacksaw Duggan beat The Rougeaus & Dino Bravo in 13:38. Remember the Flair-Steamboat match? Well, let's go to the opposite side of the spectrum and then some. I thought I was watching Charlie Chaplin (no, Mr. Fuji wasn't there.) Butch pinned Ray after Duggan clocked him with the 2X4. -**

Steel Cage Match

Hulk Hogan beat Big Boss Man in 8:15. It took them longer to put the stupid thing up. Bubba bled but very weakly. Second worst cage match I ever saw. (Duggan vs. Gang in Ft. Worth during UWF was first.) Hogan cuffed Bubba and went over the top. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

Hartford Notes

Crowd was 14,300 as they continue to draw real well all over... Lanny Poffo read a poem about Wrestlemania which I wasn't paying attention to until the crowd started booing. Lanny was backing up Savage so I guess Lanny will be a heel. Does anyone care? Well you will if they decide to reveal Leaping Lanny Savage and make them a tag team which we can then kiss Macho's career bye-bye... This crew must have been beat as they were in MSG yesterday afternoon, Boston last night, Hartford today and somewhere I can't remember tonight... No return date announced as NWA is booked for New Haven and Vince only runs Hartford every three months or so. Chalk up a minor victory for Turner.

Saturday Night's Main Event

1) Brutus Beefcake beat Rick Rude via dq when Andre interfered. Jake Roberts then came out and when he was thwarted, in came John Studd. I give this match ** for the whole scene. Rude took a nice bump from a clothesline. 2) Hulk Hogan beat Bad News Brown with the leg drop. I can't believe there was no count out. The ref wasn't even counting when they were brawling outside the ring for about three minutes. * 3) Ted DiBiase beat Blue Blazer with a powerslam in 3:58. This was basically a showcase for Ted's talent. Blazer did a great dive onto Ted outside the ring. Real good for a short match. *** Next up was the second installment of "As The Wrestling Turns". Elizabeth gave the second worst acting job of the wrestling year with her decision on who's corner to be in. She chose neither and this whole skit on this night was a waste of my sleep time. 4) Brain Busters and The Rockers went to a double count out in a great match. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ 5) Terry Taylor pinned Brooklyn Brawler in 1:06 with a small package. $\frac{1}{2}$ * for the match but ***** for the booking. Hopefully, after April 2 we won't have to see Lombardi any more.

Overall, I thought the show was pretty good but I like the live opening from the arena. At least keep that live opening. I believe this was the last Main Event until the fall.

Ramblings

My surprise of the past two weeks was hearing that Jimmy Snuka was at the last Vince tapings in Texas. Apparently Vince caught wind that the N.W.A. was going to take him and push him up here and Vince realizing how well Snuka was liked in these parts, didn't want to let him work there. Don't matter. He'll last less than a month... Several guys have been let go by Vince affective after 4/2. Sam Houston, Ron Bass, Scott Casey, Conquistadors, and a couple others. I can see all of them in the NWA. Scott will team with his brother Steve and win the tag belts from the Roadies. Conquistadors will feud with Cruel Connection over the masks, and Bass will feud with JYD to see who puts the fans to sleep quicker. Honest, Jim Herd told me so... Tully and Arn will feud with the Bushes after Wrestlemania. Takes care of their good matches... FNN did it again. They were supposed to have "Pro Wrestling This Week" on last night but noooo, there was a diet show on instead... Buddy Landell to be interviewed by Turner's people this week. Vince turned Buddy down... One of the reasons Michael Hayes was turned heel was to have him do the color with Jim Ross. Magnum has been let go but don't despair, he was given a nice severence check. I saw all of Hayes' color work in the UWF with Jim Ross and he's A-1... How's this for good promoting. In New Orleans on the syndies last week, they listed the start time of the big show as 7:30 when it starts at 2:30 C.S.T. Then they also announced the Municipal Auditorium when it's at the Superdome. Yeah, they'll be number 1 someday, but not in my lifetime.

Correspondent Reports

Pittsburgh Civic Arena

Pittsburgh, PA

March 3, 1989

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Shane Douglas pinned R.C. Anderson in 14:43 with a belly-belly suplex. (C) 2) Johnny Valiant beat Dante DeNucci in 9:12 with a foot to the face of a charging Dante. (C-) 3) Wendi Richter pinned Olympia Hartauer in 10:40 of a title match. (D) 4) Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond defeated Terry Gibbs & Ken Patera in 14:29. Pat gave Gibbs a savate kick and Diamond pinned him. (B-) 5) Greg Gagne pinned Tommy Rich after both wrestlers shoulders were down after a suplex but Tommy didn't get his up in time. (C-) 6) Wahoo McDaniels beat Manny Fernandez via count out in 7:41. (C+) 7) Sgt. Slaughter beat Larry Zbyszko on a dq when Larry hit Sarge with the title belt. (C) Attendance: 3,510

Davis & Elkins College Gym

Elkins, WV

March 4, 1989

Correspondent: John Lanigan

1) Krusher Klebanski and Hercules Gavin went to a double count out in 11:59. (C-) 2) Candi Divine pinned Cheryl Crawford with a flying cross body in 9:07. (C) 3) Time Machine drew U.S. Express in thirty minutes. (B) 4) T.C. Reynolds used a superplex to pin Mark Curtis in 7:32. (C-) 5) Kurt Kaufman beat Klebanski when Krusher missed with a chair and it rebounded into his own head. (D+) 6) Al Perez pinned Ron Sexton in 9:32 using the ropes for leverage. Wendell Cooley no showed. (C-) 7) Ron Sexton came back to win a battle royal. ATT: 600

San Francisco Cow Palace

San Fran, CA

March 10, 1989

Correspondent: Jeff Mullins (RL - Written exactly as I received it.)

1) Tim Horner "beat" Jose Luis Rivera, according to adult carrying U.S. flag and sponge 2x4. I am late due to mega traffic jam. 2) John Studd pins Akeem as sold out crowd cheers, mainly because it has tickets while 5,000 outside in rain storm do not. 3) Red Rooster pops crowd with chicken strut and backslide three count over Brooklyn Brawler whose best move is sticking out his jaw. 4) One of the Rougeaus (yawn) is rolled up and pinned by one of the Bushwhackers (yawn) who move like they have just eaten the day's catch and all the sour dough bread at Fisherman's Wharf. 5) Bad News Brown pins Tito Santana by grabbing ropes to thwart Tito's sunset flip. 6) Rick Rude draws genuine heat; Jim Duggan sells tuckload of sponge, and both prove beyond a doubt McMahon's commision testimonies that the WWF is not wrestling. Rude is pinned following a clothesline. 7) House erupts for Randy Savage vs. Ultimate Warrior as Warrior is counted out of ring in now usual Rude aided non-title bout. Ultimate looks awesome in person.

Boston Garden

Boston, MA

March 18, 1989

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Young Scallions beat Conquistadors in 14:57. SEAH (same ending as Hartford) 2) Rockin Robin beat Judy Martin in 7:44. SEAH 3) Curt Hennig beat Ron Garvin in 14:19 as Curt reversed a flying body press for the pin. 4) Rockers over Busters via dq in 22:30 when Arn pulled the ref out of the ring during a Rocker pin attempt. 5) Rooster beat Brawler in 11:16 with a backslide. 6) Hercules and Bad News Brown went to a double dq in 6:05. Bad to the bone. 7) Same Six man as Hartford. (How's that for laziness.) 8) Hogan beat Boss Man in a cage in 9:07. SEAH. Att: 14,000 (Sell Out)

Letters To The Editor

NWA

I have to agree on your thinking about the NWA, and to me it stinks big time. Now I guess I better let you know that I'm a WWF hardcore fan. That is because I grew up with the WWF and I'm loyal to it. Some things really anger me as to what Vince does to his wrestlers like the Red Rooster, Blue Blazer, and others. But at least Vince makes money off of his wrestling. Turner does not make as much, probably not even close.

Now for the NWA. Why do they hire wrestlers that died out in the WWF? They surely are not going to make money for the NWA. I also remember a time when the NWA T.V. was decent. Now they stink and I tape them so I can fast forward just about the whole shows except the interviews. Overall, I think Turner or George Scott is killing the NWA and Vince does not have to worry about them becoming the #1 promotion. I just can't see it happening. I also see Vince laughing his butt off when they hire the WWF rejects. Vince McMahon is #1 and will probably be that way for some time. Wouldn't it be excellant if McMahon gets Ric Flair or Sting?

I was watching Prime Time on 3/6 and the way Gorilla Monsoon was talking about Piper made him sound like he was coming in as a heel. Then we have Bobby Heenan talking real nice about Piper. What is the deal. Is Piper going to be a heel or what?

Walt Marshall
Morrisville, PA

RL- I didn't catch that Prime Time but I'm pretty sure Roddy will be a face

A Must Read For Me

Except for major news breaks and the little known asides or kickers, I buy wrestling newsletters primarily to read knowledgeable editorial opinions, fresh thought provoking insights, humorous observations and intelligent personal reflections by editors, regular contributors, and letter writers who have something unique to say or at least have a different way of saying the same old thing.

Endless match reports bore me, unless correspondents have captured something special or unusual about the matches, and I am thankful that "Arena Report" prints only a few in each issue.

"Arena Report" has become a must read for me for precisely the following reasons:

1) It comes out consistently and when promised, more than once a month, and one gets the feeling that hard news is not always lifted from the weekly sheets.

2) It's editor has a strong, incisive point of view, one that is not a carbon of Dave Meltzer ("Observer") or Steve Beverly ("Matwatch") two of the best editor-wrestling analysts in the business.

3) Ron Lemieux's sense of humor, at times biting, yet never outlandish goes a bit further than that of Meltzer and Beverly, but not as far out as that of Lance Levine ("Chokehold") or Jeff Zinger (Grunt & Graan) who do excellent work but, uh, you would not exactly want copies of their stuff sitting on the coffee table if your mother-in-law was coming for a visit. In a nut shell, Lemieux's wit to sarcasm has a soft edge to it but is never really sardonic or sadistic.

4) Lemieux has a circle of buddies, associates, correspondents, and contacts from the greater northeastern part of the nation, fellows whose names are always popping up in the readers pages of the more prolific wrestling sheets, and he regularly mentions them in a clever and fond way that is never too "clubbish", chummy or patronizing. It is a gregarious "in crowd" of smart wrestling nuts which Lemieux portrays in a "fan as celebrity" mode, and instead of the reader being put off by it, you wish some of these guys lived in your own neck of the woods.

5) When you send Ron a letter to the editor, you get the feeling great pains are taken in editing and re-typing, something a few of the other sheets could take to heart.

6) Finally, like some editors who share in print, matters about their personal, family, or publishing affairs, Lemieux keeps it to a comfortable minimum and has yet to bitch in his pages about how difficult the task is putting out a sheet. At 50¢ a copy (is this a get rich quick scheme or what?) "Arena Report" is an absolute steal, and it is without a doubt, the best buy (pennywise and quality per page) on the underground market.

Ron, you wanted to hear some feedback on your newsletter. Well, there it is. Sorry I could not find much to criticize, but not to worry, as you can count on me to be among the first to blast you if "Arena Report" starts to slide downhill. After all, pal, this is wrestling.

Jeff Mullins
San Jose, CA

RL- Thanks for the nice comments Jeff but now I have to tell you some of my new policies. First, I'll now publish every six months, all my correspondent and such are pissed at me so my new ones are from Guatemala, letters to the editor will now go in as is, and it will now cost \$10.00 an issue. In all honesty now, thanks to Jeff again and I should use this as a marketing tool for this sheet.

Help Evan Fund

Here's one that maybe the "smart" fans out there can help me with.

WWF Heavyweight Champ Randy Savage has been wrestling Inter-Continental Champ Ultimate Warrior all around WWF land. Neither guy ever gets pinned. So why do they bother to bill the match as non-title?

To me, logic would indicate that if the match is hyped in the traditional "Only one man will walk out with both belts...", you could still have the same draw,cor/dq ending but maybe sell even more tickets. I just can't figure it out.

Ron, please help me with this one. I haven't slept for weeks-it just keeps me up all night.

Evan Ginzburg
Bayside, NY

RL- The only answer I have for you Evan is that Vince didn't know what to do with the angle so he called George Scott for his advice and what you have is called "Scott logic" working here. As far as your insomnia, I have the last three weeks of TBS on tape if you'd like them.

Final Word

My apologies to the guys who sent in reports. I left out some details so I could get this done tonight. Oh,oh, I'm starting to complain. I don't want Jeff and his deranged brother Jack on my case. And of course my thanks to all those who contributed as well as all who read this baby. Next report again will be from April 8. I'm planning on making a trip to Providence 4/28 to do an issue on that show unless Vince decides to run Springfield in April which I doubt. So I'll probably hit Louie country. Until then.

See ya,

Ron